ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for tracking error detection in an optical disk reproduction system. The tracking error detecting apparatus generates a tracking error signal as a difference signal of optical detection signals generated by more than two optical detectors positioned along a diagonal line from a track center and includes binarizers which binarize each output of the optical detectors, phase locked loops (PLLs) which generate respective clock signals synchronized with the outputs of each of the binarizers, a phase difference detector which detects a phase difference between the synchronized signals output from the PLLs, and low-pass filters which filter the output of the phase difference detector to output the result as the tracking error signal. The tracking error detecting apparatus generates a tracking error signal which is not dependent on the lengths of pits or marks recorded on an optical disk, enhancing the reliability of the tracking error signal.